

Workers of all countries, unite!

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S T A T E M E N T

The working class of Turkey, the international working class- and trade union movement have lost one of their courageous sons. Fascist bandits have killed Kemal Türkler, the distinguished leader of the trade union movement, fighter for peace, independence, democracy, and socialism.

Those who shot the president of the Metalworkers' Trade Union of Turkey (Maden-İş) are the hired killers of the Union of the Metal Industrialists (MESS), of the government hostile to the people, of the American imperialism, from the terror organisations of the fascist Nationalist Action Party (MHP). Politicians like Demirel and bosses like Narin who have been taking the offence against the class trade unions with every possible mean and making anti-trade union provocations for long years are the responsables for the Türkler's death. None of them will be able to escape without accounting for it. The aim of this murder is to deal blows to class trade unions, to break the strikes of the metal workers, to create broader circumstances for organizing further attacks against the progressive forces, to pass the new antidemocratic laws on the state security courts, on the extraordinary situation and against the trade union rights and freedoms by force, by blood and bullets, to make the regime more reactionary, and to give way to a fascist dictatorship.

Our country is confronted with a bloody conspiracy organized by the US imperialism. To bring this plot to naught is only possible by resisting courageously to the reactionary government and to the militarist clique, by not withdrawing even one step when confronted with attacks, by uniting the broadest democratic forces on this basis. The working class of Turkey will not allow neither a policy towards "repairing" the system of exploitation by making a compromise with the main agent of US imperialism, the bloody handed reactionary Demirel, nor a nonactivity under the conditions of ever increasing fascist attacks which means to capitulate.

Today all political forces have to choose between the two: Either to be together with imperialism and the collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie against the people; or with the people against imperialism and against the collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie. The Communist Party of Turkey (CPT) calls the workers' parties, the Kurdish Democrats, the left forces, the members of the Republican People's Party (CHP) and of the National Salvation Party (MSP), everyone who is against the policy of the government which is hostile to the people to mass actions against the fascist terror and violence.

Metal workers who have lost their leader, all members of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK), textile, glass and metal workers on strike are struggling against the fascist attack by showing mass resistance. In

factories, in enterprises, on the streets the banner of resistance of the proletariat is being raised against this bloody murder. All workers, progressive forces are uniting around this banner. Strikes, demonstrations are spreading throughout the whole country. The fascist aggressors and the government protecting them have hit their heads to the wall of the working class, of the people. The rising anger of the masses will destroy the fascist terror nests.

Hundreds of thousands of workers affiliated to DİSK and Türk-İş (Workers' Trade Union of Turkey) have to unite against the enemies of the people, to throw down the walls of the trade union separation. The unity of action between DİSK and Türk-İş will form the main force to break the backbone of the enemy. The actions of solidarity with the tens of thousands of striking workers must be expanded now with a higher revolutionary enthusiasm. These strikes must be lead to victory.

The fascist terror cannot intimidate our people. The government hostile to the people and the semi-military violence regime will be overthrown by the decisive struggle of all national democratic forces. Days of terror, unemployment, torture and prison will end.

All democratic forces of Turkey! Unite to overthrow the government hostile to the people!

23 July 1980

Central Committee
Communist Party of Turkey

TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF MADEN-İŞ

Dear friends,

The workers' and trade union movement of Turkey and of the world have lost one of their brave sons. Kemal Türkler, the president of Maden-İş died as a result of a bloody attack that was planned and executed by the reactionary ruling circles. The Communist Party of Turkey protests sharply this political murder that is aimed in the personality of Kemal Türkler to the whole workers' and trade union movement.

Kemal Türkler who is one of the founders of both Maden-İş and DİSK and who has lead these organisations for years spent 30 years of his life for the working class. He has a big contribution to all strikes and

resistances, demonstrations and marches in the recent history of the working class. May Day celebrations that were organised with big demonstrations are bound to his name. Although he was imprisoned several times he stood at the forefront of the workers' and trade union movement in Turkey.

The Communist Party of Turkey expresses its condolences to all leaders and members of Maden-İs, to the whole working class, to revolutionary and democratic forces and to this family. The working class, our people will always keep his memory alive in the struggle for national and social liberation.

23 July 1980

I. Bilen
General Secretary
Central Committee
Communist Party of Turkey

TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN

Esteemed comrades,

On behalf of all communists and of the working people of Turkey the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey greets the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Great Britain with fervent feelings.

The Communist Party of Great Britain is fighting for 60 years for the defence of the economic and social rights of the working people of your country and for peace and fraternity of the people of the world. Today while imperialism is mounting the international tension, is stimulating the arms race, is trying to station new nuclear weapons to the Western Europe and while the British imperialism is playing a special role in these plans, the struggle of the Communist Party of Great Britain for peace, détente and security gains much more importance. The Communist Party of Great Britain holds on the banner of solidarity with the people who wage a struggle for freedom against the reactionary, fascist and racist regimes.

The Communist Party of Turkey and the Communist Party of Great Britain are bound fraternally on the basis of common ideals of struggle and

internationalist solidarity. We wish you many new and big successes on the 60th anniversary of founding of your party.

31 July 1980

With communist greetings

İ. Bilen

General Secretary

Central Committee

Communist Party of Turkey

TO COMRADE İ. BİLEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Esteemed comrade,

I thank for your fervent wishes you have sent on my birthday wholeheartedly.

Your behaviour expresses the ties of solidarity which were formed among the communists of our countries. These ties will reinforce further the support of the French working class and French people to the struggles against the reprisals of the reactionary government and the fascist groups and for the legalisation of the CPT.

Esteemed comrade Bilen, I send you my most fraternal greetings.

26 July 1980

Georges Marchais

General Secretary

Central Committee

French Communist Party

CPT ATTENDED THE FESTIVAL OF "AVANTE", CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE
PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communist Party of Turkey participated in the festival of "Avante", the central organ of the Portuguese Communist Party with a delegate, "Atılın", the central organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey was represented at the festival together with more 39 organs of the fraternal parties.

Over one million Portuguese visited the festival of "Avante" which took place on the 11th-13th of July 1980 in Ajuda, a workers' district near Lissabon.

THE WORKING CLASS OF TURKEY RESPONDED THE MURDER OF KEMAL TÜRKLER
BY A GENERAL STRIKE

Kemal Türkler, one of the founders of the Confederation of the Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK), president of the Metal Workers' Trade Union (Maden-İş), a metal worker, one of the founders of the Peace Committee of Turkey and member of World Peace Council was killed maliciously on the 22nd of July 1980. The murder of Kemal Türkler awoke the hard protest of the working class of Turkey, of the peace and democracy forces of the country. 800 000 workers and 200 000 employees, teachers and technicians started a strike. This general strike lasted until Kemal Türkler was buried by 300 000 people with a very solid antifascist demonstration. Almost in every city and in hundreds of municipalities of Turkey protest demonstrations, antifascist meetings, actions and marches were made.

Kemal Türkler came into the rows of the working class 1948 as a metal worker. When he was working in the plant of Enayetas he became member of Maden-İş. He waged a struggle against the American type yellow trade unionism in Turkey, he joined the movement of class and mass trade unionism and he became one of the leaders of this movement. 1967 Kemal Türkler was one of the founders of DİSK and the president of this organisation; 1970 against a renewal of a law oppising the interests of the working class Türkler made the call of general resistance and lead the mass demonstrations which are called in the history of the working class of Turkey as "the general resistance of the 15th and 16th June". For that reason he was imprisoned for months. During the ten years when he was president of DİSK this confederation developed and strengthened. 1976 he participated in the initiatives to celebrate the May Day with a big mass demonstration in Turkey after 50 years of banning. Türkler was imprisoned twice by the present Demirel regime. He was the target of uninterrupted provocations, untrue newses and falsifications organised by the reactionary and monopoly press. But he never stepped away from the struggle for the interests of the working class.

After the deputy Abdurrahman Köksaloğlu of the CHP, after Nihat Erin, a former prime minister, Kemal Türkler was the third famous personality who was killed in the same week. Communist Party of Turkey, in its statement of the 23rd of July 1980 puts the reasons of this murder as the following: "The aim

of this murder is to deal blows to class trade unions, to break the strikes of the metal workers, to create broader circumstances for organizing further attacks against the progressive forces, to pass the new antidemocratic laws on the state security courts, on the extraordinary situation and against the trade union rights and freedoms by force, by blood and bullets, to make the regime more reactionary, and to give way to a fascist dictatorship." Indeed immediately after the murder of Kemal Türkler reactionary and fascist laws on the state security courts and on the extraordinary situation were imposed to the parliament. A "dialog" have been started between the Justice Party of Demirel (AP) and the CHP leadership.

The Biggest General Strike of the History of Turkey:

After the news of the malicious murder of Kemal Türkler was spread, the most organised and solid general strike in the history of Turkey bursted out. The fascist forces who claimed to "squeeze" the heads of the progressive forces, and Demirel government protecting them got a big shock. The reactionary government, the bourgeois parties, the monopoly press that were racing in order to blame Kemal Türkler were astonished through the resistance of the working class and of the peace and democracy forces.

As soon as the news was spread all members of Maden-İş started the strike. Meetings, antifascist demonstrations and speeches were held in the factories. The council of the presidents and the executive committee of DİSK at a joint meeting decided to protest. After that all trade unions affiliated to DİSK started the strike in Istanbul, Ankara and İzmir. Also the trade unions affiliated to Türk-İş (the second big confederation of Turkey) decided to support and enter the strike movement. As it is stated in the statement of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey of the 23rd of July, members of DİSK and Türk-İş enabled this action shoulder by shoulder.

The movement grasped the centers of the Turkish economy like the oil refineries of Aliaga and İpraş, like the steel factories of Ereğli and İskenderun. The workers of İpraş slowed the work down, the workers of two shifts in Aliaga refinery organised a joint protest march. The railway workers supported the resistance of the steel workers by slowing the work down. Following the appeal of the Banking Workers' Trade Union (Bank-Sen) working people of the big banks of Turkey like Yapı Kredi Bankası, Garanti Bankası, Uluslararası Endüstri ve Ticaret Bankası, Türkiye İmar Bankası, Sümerbank and of the insurance corporations like Güneş Sigorta, Başak Sigorta also went to strike. Employees of the Central Bank and Tax Departments of Ankara joined the movement.

In almost all cities and hundreds of municipalities of Turkey protest actions, antifascist meetings and marches took place. Progressive youth, women, teachers, technicians in their actions were supported by the people, in some places the people took in these actions an active part. In Adana, for instance, martial law commander let the city buses changed by military buses before the drivers of the city municipality went to strike. Although military buses were driven the whole day, the people have refused to enter them.

All these mass demonstrations and protests took place despite of the reprisals and threats of the police and of the martial law bodies. Especially all kinds of reprisals were made to the working people who wanted to come to the funeral by buses from Anatolia to Istanbul, who organised marches and who went on strike. Two workers in Adana, one in Istanbul were killed. Many workers, working people, progressive people, youngsters, women, employees were arrested.

After the murder of Kemal Türkler the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey issued a statement, Comrade İ. Bilen, the general secretary of the Central Committee sent a message of condolences to the Executive Council of Maden-İş. The Workers' Party of Turkey and the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey protested the event by statements. Mustafa Üstündağ, the general secretary of CHP made an announcement; Bülent Ecevit, president of this party visited the center of Maden-İş and the family of Türkler and condoled them. The president of the National Salvation Party and the vice president of the AP group in the parliament also issued statements. İbrahim Denizci, president of Türk-İş protested the event. Many democratic and professional organisations like Cooperatives of the Villagers, Association of the Contemporary Journalists, Union of the Chambers of the Engineers and Architects, the Peace Committee of Turkey, The Organisation of the Health Services Workers, the Bar, the executive council of the People's Cultural Houses issued statements and called their members to participate actively in the big demonstration by which Kemal Türkler will be buried.

Many communist and workers' parties sent to Maden-İş messages of condolences. The national trade union centers that are affiliated to the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) declared their solidarity with their class brothers in Turkey. Comrade C. Zarodov, editor in chief of the World Marxist Review also sent to Maden-İş a message of condolence.

The Atmosphere of Intination is broken:

300 000 people who could surmount the obstacles of the martial law attended the funeral of Kemal Türkler. A great number of workers who came from Anatolia by buses were not allowed to join the demonstration and sent back to their cities. The appeal of DİSK to those who could not participate in the

demonstration to show their honour in every place they were present, acquired big interest. As an example, the taxis stopped in Ankara, the passengers went out and stood in the honour of Kemal Türkler, the workers rang the sirens of the factories.

Mrs. Behice Boran, president of the Workers' Party of Turkey, Yalçın Yusuf-oğlu, general secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey, a delegation of 50 deputies under the heading of Mustafa Üstündağ, the general secretary of the CHP, the presidential board of Türk-İş, Mahmut Dikerdem and Enis Coşkun, president and general secretary of the Peace Committee of Turkey respectively, the presidents and leaders of the professional mass organisations as well as of the democratic organisations were present. The international delegation consisted of Jean Nemoudy (Poland), secretary of the WFTU, Gilbert Lebasc n, representative of the French trade union centre CGT, and of John Benson (Australia), representative of the World Peace Council.

The joint strike of the workers of DİSK and Türk-İş, the statement of the president of Türk-İş, the coming together of the leaders of the two biggest trade union centers of Turkey in the funeral of Türkler that has become an antifascist demonstration, the swearing of members of DİSK and Türk-İş together that they will keep the memory of Kemal Türkler alive were important developments in the direction of the unity of action of the trade union movement. The movement of unity of action for democracy that is going to be organised by the CPT is lifted to a higher level. CPT called all communists to wage the struggle more consequently in order to widen and deepen the actions of the masses that arose. In many parts of Turkey, communists and members of the workers' parties, members of the Progressive Youth Organisation and members of the youth organisations of Genç Öncü (Young Vanguard) and SCB (Socialist Youth Union) made unity of action. In some places also the members of the petty bourgeois groups entered this unity of action. The radio station "Voice of the CPT" in its broadcast of the 27th of July 1980 evaluated this as the following: "The force of the unity of action is proved in these days. The slogan of the National Democratic Front became the banner of the hundreds of thousands, and during this resistance the unity of action of the broadest democracy forces could be reached."

The mass actions, the protest action, and the strikes that bursted bursted out after the murder of Kemal Türkler removed the atmosphere of intimidation which was going to be introduced in Turkey and resulted in the revive of the people. The radio station "Voice of the CPT" in its broadcast of the 24th of July 1980 declared the importance of this development and its driving force as the following:

"The atmosphere of intimidation and panic that the fascist hordes and the martial law bodies wanted to spread is going to be removed by the mass movement against the murder of Türkler. The men who were forced to sit in their homes, to emigrate, to sit^{as} the hands chained are awaking with voices of struggle in the streets. They raise their heads again and see the real revolutionary force, the proletariat and its communist vanguard as their single guarantee."